Notes from DEQ/EPA discussion on 6/1/10

What is the definition of recontamination?

- Recontamination is something that prevents us from achieving remediation goals.
    - Remedial goals (e.g., sediment concentration) are generally evaluated on Spatially-Weighted Average Concentration within the cap, dredge or MNR area boundaries.
    - Evaluation may also involve localized exposure scenarios for aquatic receptors (e.g., depositional area around stormwater outfall), but that level of detail is not likely to be considered until the RD stage, if then.

How is recontamination potential considered at different stages of the CERCLA process?

- Source Control
    - Presently, DEQ does not usually consider recontamination potential as a LOE when making a SCD for the stormwater pathway. The exception might be sites discharging into off channel/slack water areas (lagoon, embayments, under docks or other impediments to current) within AOPCs.
    - We are gearing up to run some scenarios using simple models to provide guidance for when/where RE should be required
    - DEQ typically requires High Priority stormwater sites to collect composite stormwater samples – often referred to as "loading data" – rather than grab samples during the performance monitoring phase following the implementation of SCMs. The primary purpose of this higher quality data is to provide a level of certainty that source control measures are effective; it can also be used for a recontamination evaluation where needed.

- Feasibility Study
    - As we begin to get into the Alternative Analysis, we'd like to have a general sense of the likelihood that stormwater, groundwater or bank erosion to cause recontamination or stifle NR. The modeling scenarios described above will help us do this.
    - If it looks likely, this should be a consideration in the evaluation of remedial alternatives. It would allow for some discussion of "is this the best we can do?" scenario for source control. E.g., if we've already taken all the reasonable/feasible stormwater SCMs, should we require all dischargers to take extreme measures or accept this load as a "given" (i.e., akin to upstream load).
    - Need to ensure LWG runs model scenarios that help us understand the environmental benefit of, for example, cutting the predicted stormwater load in half, to help us think through this.

- ROD
    - The ROD is likely to describe what kind of stormwater controls are needed to be protective of sediment cleanup goals (e.g,. NPDES permit) but leave it to DEQ/WQ program to decide what it will take to do that.
    - DEQ expects to complete this evaluation, and have a PH-specific permit in place if necessary, prior to issuance of the ROD

- Remedial Design
    - Stormwater discharges within or adjacent to Sediment Management Areas will likely undergo additional scrutiny. If existing controls are found to be inadequate to prevent recontamination, site-specific stormwater treatment technologies and/or customized stormwater permits may be required at sites of concern.
    - Robustness of evaluation dependent upon what we learn between now and then about likely stormwater impacts